

## Message Text

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PAGE 01     PORT O 02023 052114Z

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ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 STR-04 EB-07 COME-00 SS-15 NSC-05 INR-07

/049 W

----- 022690

R 052046Z AUG 76

FM AMEMBASSY PORT OF SPAIN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9550

INFO AMEMBASSY BRIDGETOWN

AMEMBASSY GEORGETOWN

AMEMBASSY KINGSTON

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE PORT OF SPAIN 2023

E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: ETRD, MTN, TD

SUBJECT: AMBASSADOR YEUTTER'S VISIT TO LATIN AMERICA

REF: (A) STATE 186129, (B) PORT OF SPAIN 1874, (C) STATE 17(967  
AND RELATED MESSAGES, (D) PORT OF SPAIN 1776, (E) PORT  
OF SPAIN 255, (F) PORT OF SPAIN 1375, (G) PORT OF SPAIN 932,  
(H) PORT OF SPAIN 2172, (I) US MTN OFFER AND REQUESTNIVISTS,  
(J) PORT OF SPAIN 2925 (EXDIS)

1. REFERENCES LIST KEY MESSAGES RELATED TO MTN WHICH EMBASSY  
BELIEVES SHOULD PROVIDE BACKGROUND FOR WASHINGTON'S PREPARATION  
OF BRIEFING PAPER ON TRINIDAD. FOLLOWING ARE ADDITIONAL  
UKTHGENTS, BASED IN PART ON DISCUSSIONS AUGUST 4 WITH  
SENIOR MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY AND COMMERCE OFFICIALS RESPONSIBLE  
FOR NEGOTIATIONS AT THIS END, CHIEFLY ADVISER TO MINISTER,  
HUORGE REAMPERSAD.

2. TRINIDAD HAS SERIOUS INTEREST IN ONLY TWO ITEMS: RUM  
AND ANGOSTURA BITTERS. UNLESS THERE IS REASONABLE PROSPECT  
OF CONCESSIONS ON ONE OR BOTH ITEMS, IT WILL CONSIDER ANY  
GAINS FROM MTN MINIMAL. OTHER ITEMS TRINIDAD HAS REQUESTED  
ARE CONSIDERED LARGELY "HOUSEKEEPING" LEFT OVER FROM GSP  
EXERCISE. MINISTRY IS PESSIMISTIC ABOUT ACHIEVING CON-  
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PAGE 02     PORT O 02023 052114Z

CESSIONS ON EITHER OF MAJOR REQUESTS. AS INSTRUCTED REF

(C), EMBASSY DID NOT INFORM GOTT THAT GSP REVIEW DECISION ON BITTERS LIKELY TO BE NEGATIVE, BUT RAMPERSAD EVIDENTLY DOES NOT EXPECT FAVORABLE RULING. HE POINTED OUT THAT EVERY TIME ONE OBJECTION TO INCLUSION ON GSP LIST HAD BEEN OVERCOME, ANOTHER WAS BROUGHT UP IN ITS PLACE. GOTT IS ALSO FULLY AWARE OF THORNY NATURE OF RUM PROBLEM, OWING ITS IMPORTANCE TO PUERTO RICO, AND IS NOT SANGUINE ABOUT LIKELIHOOD QUESTION WILL BE RESOLVED IN TRINIDAD'S FAVOR.

3. GOTT BELIEVES THAT IN LIGHT OF GROUND RULES ADOPTED IN TOKYO, DEVELOPING COUNTRIES SUCH AS TRINIDAD SHOULD NOT BE REQUIRED TO EXTEND RECIPROCITY. RAMPERSAD POINTED OUT THAT TRINIDADIAN IMPORTS HAVE BEEN SHIFTING IN US'S FAVOR OVER PAST FEW YEARS, A TREND LIKELY TO CONTINUE FOLLOWING REMOVAL OF COMMONWEALTH PREFERENCES ON JANUARY 1 OF THIS YEAR. CURRENT PLANS FOR INVESTMENT IN HIGH TECHNOLOGY INDUSTRY OVER NEXT FEW YEARS WILL INEVITABLY INCREASE US CAPITAL GOODS EXPORTS TO TRINIDAD. HENCE HE DOES NOT SEE WHY US NEEDS TO PRESS TRINIDAD FOR FURTHER TRADE CONCESSIONS IN GENEVA. HE UNDERSTANDS US POSITION THAT ALL PARTICIPANTS SHOULD CONTRIBUTE TO OUTCOME OF NEGOTIATIONS TO EXTENT OF THEIR ABILITY, BUT DOES NOT FEEL CONCESSIONS ON ITEMS OTHER THAN RUM AND BITTERS OFFER SUFFICIENT TRADE ADVANTAGES TO WARRANT A CONTRIBUTION FROM TRINIDAD.

4. RAMPERSAD AGAIN EXPRESSED DISPLEASURE THAT SEPARATE REQUEST LISTS SENT TO TRINIDAD AND JAMAICA, WHEN CARICOM COMMON TARIFF MEANT CONCESSIONS BY ONE MEMBER OF CARICOM WOULD AUTOMATICALLY BE EXTENDED BY ALL OTHERS; HE INTERPRETS THIS TO MEAN TRINIDAD BEING ASKED TO MAKE CONCESSIONS ON EIGHT ITEMS, NOT FOUR.

5. EMBASSY HAS URGED WASHINGTON TO CONSIDER REQUESTING CONCESSION FROM TRINIDAD ON RICE (REFS (F) AND (G)). WHILE WE WERE INFORMED WASHINGTON AGREES IN PRINCIPLE, WE DO NOT KNOW HOW THIS QUESTION IS BEING HANDLED WITHIN MTN CONTEXT IN GENEVA. EMBASSY BELIEVES WE CAN MAKE BETTER CASE FOR CONTRIBUTION CONSISTENT WITH TRINIDAD'S LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PAGE 03    PORT O 02023 052114Z

DEVELOPMENT OBJECTIVES FOR PRODUCT OF THIS KIND, WHICH WOULD GIVE CLEAR ADVANTAGE IN LOWER PRICES TO TRINIDADIAN CONSUMERS, AS WELL AS BENEFIT US EXPORTERS, THAN FOR INDUSTRIAL PRODUCTS INCLUDED IN US REQUEST LIST. (IN CURRENT EXPANSIONARY CONDITIONS IN TRINIDAD, SUCH INDUSTRIAL PRODUCTS WOULD PROBABLY BE IMPORTED FROM US IF NEEDED IN ANY CASE.)

6. RAMPERSAD WAS SOMEWHAT LESS ENTHUSIASTIC ABOUT YEUTTER VISIT THAN ANOTHER ADVISER TO MINISTER OF INDUSTRY AND COMMERCE (CECIL WYKE) HAVING LESS DIRECT INVOLVEMENT IN NEGOTIATIONS WHOM WE TALKED TO EARLIER. HE SAID HE DID NOT BELIEVE ANYTHING USEFUL WOULD COME OUT OF CONSULTATION. FROM OVERALL CONTEXT OF DISCUSSIONS, HOWEVER, WE INTERPRET NEGATIVE ATTITUDE TO BE LARGELY "NEGOTIATING STANCE," AND NOT TO BE TAKEN TOO SERIOUSLY. EMBASSY CONTINUES TO BELIEVE THAT VISIT BY YEUTTER WOULD BE EXCELLENT OPPORTUNITY FOR EXCHANGE OF VIEWS ON THE ISSUES DESCRIBED ABOVE AND ON MORE GENERAL ASPECTS OF MTN. GIVEN TRINIDAD'S FAVORABLE BALANCE OF PAYMENTS POSITION, EMBASSY BELIEVES THIS IS ONLY CARICOM COUNTRY WHICH HAS ROOM TO MAKE A SIGNIFICANT CONTRIBUTION TO NEGOTIATIONS IF IT THINKS IT IS GETTING SOMETHING IN EXCHANGE. APPARENT LACK OF COMMUNICATION WITH GENEVA NOTED IN PARA 4 REF (D) ALSO ARGUES FOR DIRECT COMMUNICATION WITH OFFICIAL HERE

7. KEY TO WHETHER WE CAN EXPECT ANY REAL CONCESSIONS BY TRINIDAD WHICH WE DESIRE IN THE TRADE FIELD OR EVEN ANY FURTHER SERIOUS ATTENTION TO MTN BARGAINING, WILL BE HIGHLY INFLUENCED BY PERCEPTION OF WHETHER WE ARE ABLE AND WILLING TO NEGOTIATE ON RUM.  
RICH

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** TRADE VISITS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 05 AUG 1976  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** saccheem  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
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**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** N/A  
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**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
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**TAGS:** ETRD, OVIP, US, TD, MTN  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
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